hike for 1996-2000 prepared by the Government of Orissa has been approved by the Inter-Ministerial Empowered Committee of the Ministry of Finance and a sum of Rs. 4.05 crores has been released for purchase of dredger and taking up dredging activities ill October 1997.

Pollution emission by various equipments

356. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any estimates have been made about extent of pollution emissions by diesel/petrol generating sets being used in cities and villages, oil pumps being used for irrigation and other purposes, and on account of other equipments run on dicscl/pctrol/furnacc oil, etc.;

(b) if so, what arc these and their impact on environment and if not, why;

(c) whether the pollution hazards of these equipments are no less dangerous than of automative vehicles; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken or proposed to be taken to check pollution hazards of such equipments?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) No specific study has been done regarding pollution from generators used in cities and villages, oil pumps used for irrigation and other purposes, and other equipments run on diesel/petrol/furnace oil. However, generators/oil pumps/ other equipments run on diesel/petrol/ furnace oil cause air pollution due to emission of carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, hydrocarbons and smoke. Generators also cause noise pollution.

(c) Pollution from generators and other equipments run on diesel/petrol/ furnace oil and automotive vehicles are not comparable because vehicular pollution is not localised and disperses rapidly whereas the diesel generating sets and other equipments run on diesel/ petrol/furnace oil arc stationary sources and cause localised build up of pollution.

(d) Steps taken to control air and noise pollution caused by generators and other equipments include:

(1) General emission standards have been notified for diesel generator Sets with respect to particulate matter.

(2) Noise standards for the generators have been notified at the manufacturing stage.

(3) Ambient air quality standards have been notified in respect of noise for various category of areas.

(4) Diesel with a sulphur content of 0.5% has already been introduced in the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai with effect from 1.4.95. Low sulphur diesel (0.25%) is planned to be supplied throughout the country from 1.4.1999.

Steps taken to protect Indian tiger

357. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has failed to protect tigers as is evident from the recent killing of tiger in "Sariska Sanctuary";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the European Parliament has called upon India to save tiger; and

(d) the concrete steps proposed to protect Indian tigers from the verge of extinction?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Tigress while crossing the State Highways No 13 of Rajasthan, opposite Sariska Palace Hotel was knocked down by a speeding truck on 4.6.1997 in the forenoon. The post